

THE BETHEL BREEZE

Bethel United
Methodist Church

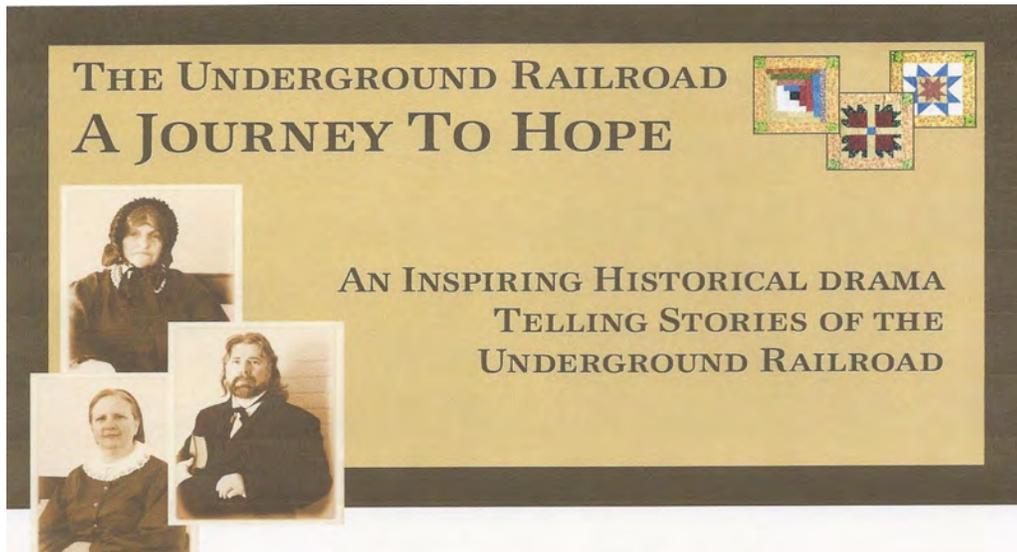
Volume 6, Issue 3
Summer, Fall 2013

Underground Railroad Program Set for Nov. 14th



Inside this issue:

"Back to School" -	2
The Word on the Street	
Church Office Relocated	2
Church Council Report	2
Church Scholarships Awarded	3
Anticipating Christmas	3
A Letter of Gratitude	3
White Oak Church Celebrates 120th	4



Pictured above are Luella Krieger, at top, Roy Gearhart and Janice Gearhart. In the dramatization "A Journey to Hope," they will portray abolitionists who served in the Underground Railroad, a network that helped slaves fleeing the South in the early 1800s.

A Journey to Hope, a creation of *Visitors of the Past*, the ministry of Luella Krieger and Roy Gearhart, will be presented at Bethel United Methodist Church on Thursday, November 14th at 7:00 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

In the early 1800s and through the years leading up to the Civil War, the Underground Railroad was a loosely connected network of people, white abolitionists and free blacks, working together to help fugitive slaves escape. The Underground Railroad was a bond between blacks and whites dedicated to this hope.

Many of the people who took part in the Underground Railroad were motivated to do so by their Christian faith, and many who escaped likewise

found hope and were sustained by faith.

The dramatization was inspired by Luella Krieger's discovery that her ancestral home of Sugar Grove, PA was deeply involved in the Underground Railroad. As Luella researched the subject, she found many inspiring stories of escaped slaves and the people who aided them. She and the Gearharts based their production on these true stories.

In the performance, Luella takes on the part of Martha Miller, a member of the Ladies Fugitive Aid Society. As part of the underground, she has made her home a "station" on the railroad.

Roy Gearhart, who in real life is a Methodist minister, portrays Jacob, a Methodist

preacher originally from Virginia. As such, he has witnessed the degradations of slavery—beatings, slave auctions and separations of families. Threatened because of his views, he has moved north to join the Underground Railroad.

Mary Matilda, played by Janice Gearhart, represents a helper on the Underground Railroad by making clothing for runaway slaves and helping to supply other needs. She uses her musical talent to present the music that slaves used to praise God and at the same time communicate with each other.

Be sure to invite your relatives, neighbors and friends to this memorable presentation. In lieu of an admission fee, a free will offering will be taken.

**Sunday School
at 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday Worship
at 11:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship Dinner
4th Sunday of the
month following the
worship service**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

“Back to School” – *The Word on the Street*

The emotions range from gleeful to gloomy depending upon who you are talking with. School age kids usually exhibit negative or gloomy expressions about the start of school at the end of each summer. Parents, of course, usually are glad about the return to routines that seem to be more manageable.

Cheryl and I recently had a brief conversation with an Erie School District elementary teacher while we were all

at the dentist office. She said her emotions are mixed about returning to teaching this year. Some of her students, she said, will be great to teach while others will require constant vigilance to maintain order and an atmosphere for learning. She believes that poverty is the primary cause for student failure and low achievement.

Poverty isn't only measured by income levels. Poverty-of-Spirit can be just as profound.

One's spiritual income, or the lack thereof, can go a long way toward fueling a prosperous life or a diminished life. There are a lot of people “un-employed” when it comes to spiritual pursuits; and many “part-timers” who only casually pay attention to this important side of life.

Let's use “back-to-school” time to invite the poor in spirit to worship with us on Sundays. Let's see if we

can expose them to a life outside of spiritual poverty – a life filled with the joy and love of God. D.T. Niles, a great missionary, once said that evangelism is nothing more and nothing less than “one beggar telling another beggar where to find food.” So, let's make room for others and set another place setting or two for the feast at the banquet table.

Pastor Jerry



Pastor Jerry checks out the new office.

Church Office Relocated

After several weeks of preparation, the room located off the corner of the Fellowship Hall, once used for storage of quilting materials, communion supplies and odds and ends, became our church office. Cub Knapp and Scott Beach have done an excellent job of making the space into a bright and cheerful room.

As for the supplies that were displaced, the quilters now have a beautiful cupboard near the kitchen for their supplies, and the other items also have new homes. Cub and Scott constructed the quilters' cupboard and built in shelves for their materials.

As for the office itself, Pastor Jerry will make good use of it and, in the very near future, we hope to have an administrative assistant who will also find it comfortable and useful.

Report from August 28th Church Council Meeting

The Erie Alliance has asked for additional financial support from the churches in the Erie-Meadville District to assist in sponsoring such agencies as The Refuge, the Liberty House, the Rainbow Connection, etc. The Missions Committee will be asked to take the matter under advisement and make a recommendation to the

council at the next meeting.

Ron Kerr, Trustees Chairperson reported that the parsonage furnace will be checked this fall. Lee Edwards has stocked the pond. As reported above, the work on the church office is completed. Elwin Kerr then reported on the progress of the work on

window replacements.

Pam Knapp of the Staff Pastor-Parish Relations Committee reported that Pastor Jerry will in the future receive a salary of \$1000 per month, a slight raise from his present compensation. The Administrative Assistant position will pay \$12 per hour, 8 hours per week.

The Lay Leadership Commit-

tee will soon present a slate of church officers for the coming year.

Upcoming events (which will be listed elsewhere) were approved by the council.

Treva Kerr reported that we have had new worshipers in attendance at our Sunday services. Cards have been sent to absent members.

Church Scholarships Awarded

On Sunday, August 18, Lance Hummer, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, awarded scholarships to students to be used for higher education this school year.

This year there were six recipients for the awards: Brianne Come, Seth Come, Joel Kerr and Trevor Foley, all attending Slippery Rock

University, Lisa Harger, a first year student at the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville, and Jacquelynn Kerr Slater who will use her financial support for graduate work.

The Bethel congregation is very proud of our young people and very pleased that we are able to help them reach their educational goals.



Anticipating Christmas!

It's time to start thinking about table decorations and scrumptious holiday desserts as we look ahead to "Advent by Candlelight."

Our event this year will be held on December 8th, and again the congregation of White Oak Church will be invited to join us in sponsoring tables. We hope to have as big a crowd this year as we did last year!

For our program prior to the desserts and fellowship, we have invited the Forest County Country Music Association band to play in the sanctuary.

Those of you who have been to the Praise Services at Neilltown Church are familiar with the group as they have been featured at those special services.

In addition to playing music from their usual repertoire, the band will play Christmas numbers and will lead the crowd in a Christmas Carol singalong.

So start making out your guest list for this year, remembering that you can seat eight people at a table. And dig out your Christmas dessert recipes. December will be here before we know it!



A Letter of Gratitude



One Thanksgiving some years ago, while watching a football game, a successful businessman reflected on his life and thought of all the people who had been influential in helping him become who he was. He decided to write each person a thank you card telling him or her of his gratitude for their influence on his life.

The first person who came to his mind was his fourth grade teacher who had always insisted that he and his classmates strive for excellence in every

endeavor. She pounded that goal into her students' heads, be it regarding homework, tests or class projects. So he sent her a thank you note.

One day, just after the new year, he received a return letter from her. She apologized for not writing sooner, but stated that his letter had taken some time getting to her. She had moved in with her daughter after retiring from teaching grade school for sixty-six years. She told him how thankful she was to have received his card and how

it cheered her to find out that he had learned so well his lessons in excellence.

She went on to say that in all her years of teaching, this was the first thank you card she had ever received from one of her former pupils, and how grateful she was that he had taken the time to remember her.

Is there anyone who should hear from you this Thanksgiving?

Anonymous

Upcoming Events

September 15th at 7:00 p.m.
Church Council Meeting

November 14th at 7:00 p.m.
"Journey to Freedom" Program

November 17th at 3:00 p.m.
Charge Conference

November 27th at 7:00 p.m.
Thanksgiving Eve Service
at White Oak UM Church

December 8th at 5:30 p.m.
"Advent by Candlelight"

December 24th at 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

**Bethel United
Methodist Church**

BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**15068 State Hwy. 89
Titusville, PA 16354**

**Rev. Jerry Gray,
Pastor**

Phone:

814-827--1082

Email:

bethelchurch@verizon.net

Sunday Worship

11:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

White Oak Church Celebrates 120th Anniversary!



Early last year, the members of the congregation of White Oak United Methodist Church started planning a celebration to mark their 120 years of existence as a church.

They decided first of all to invite former pastors to share in the festivities, so letters

were written and sent early so pastors could save the date. The big day was set for August 25th.

Then as part of the celebration, a community picnic was planned for July 21st and



neighbors, friends, and former members were all welcomed on a beautiful, sunny Sunday afternoon. Nobody left hungry! A band played for everyone's enjoyment following the meal.



A display of artifacts and church records was gathered for members and guests to browse. Objects and photographs brought back lots of memories—and stories—of days gone by.

Congratulations on your 120 years, White Oak, and Best Wishes for many more to come!

